

Message Text

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UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1206

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, CASC
SUBJ: AMENDMENT OF US PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 2779

1. GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN POLICY IS TO ALLOW AMCITS TO ENTER JORDAN FROM WEST BANK OVER ALLENBY (HUSSEIN) BRIDGE IF TRAVELER IS IN POSSESSION OF A VALID JORDANIAN VISA OR BRIDGE CROSSING PERMIT AND PASSPORT BEARS NO ISRAELI ENTRY OR VISA STAMPS. VALID JORDANIAN VISA IN CANCELLED PASSPORT IS ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS ENTRY IS MADE ON CLEAN PASSPORT BEARING NO GOI STAMPS.

2. JERUSALM HAS BEEN ISSUING APPROXIMATELY 40 REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS PER MONTH TO TRAVELERS DESTINED FOR JORDAN WHOSE PASSPORTS BEAR GOI STAMPS. IN MOST CASES, TRAVELERS HAVE BEEN UNAWARE OF GOJ PROHIBITION AGAINST ISRAELI STAMPS IN PASSPORT. IN OTHER CASES, ISRAELI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT HONORED REQUEST THAT GOI STAMPS NOT BE PLACED IN PASSPORT. THE NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS IS LIKELY TO DOUBLE DURING THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS DUE TO THE HEAVY VOLUME OF TOURISTS.

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3. ALTHOUGH GOJ AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSS THE ALLENBY BRIDGE FROM THE WEST BANK INTO JORDAN WITHOUT FIRST HAVING ENTERED ISRAEL, THEY DEMAND THAT PASSPORT BEAR NO EVIDENCE OF ENTRY INTO ISRAEL. PARADOXICALLY, A CLEAN PASSPORT ISSUED IN JERUSALEM CAN BE USED FOR TRAVEL TO JORDAN AS LONG AS IT IS PRESENTED WITH A VALID JORDANIAN VISA. THIS REQUIREMENT HAS BECOME A BURDEN TO THE CITIZENSHIP

UNIT IN JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF THE HIGH NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS THAT HAVE TO BE ISSUED. THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE IS RECOMMENDED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ISSUING A REPLACEMENT PASSPORT IN SUCH CASES:

THE ISRAELI ENTRY STAMP, WHICH IS QUITE SMALL, WOULD BE COVERED BY THE RED PAPER WAFER SEAL USED FOR NOTARIZATIONS, AND OVERSTAMPED WITH THE POST IMPRESSION SEAL. ABOVE THE SEAL, THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WOULD BE IMPRINTED WITH A RUBBER STAMP, QUOTE BEARER'S PASSPORT HAS BEEN REGISTERED--AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM UNQUOTE.

4. ASSUMING THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOJ THAT PASSPORTS SHOW NO TRACE OF ISRAELI ENTRY STAMPS, THE CONGEN BELIEVES THE CITIZENSHIP UNIT WOULD SAVE MUCH TIME AND EFFORT CURRENTLY USED IN THE ISSUANCE OF REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS, AND THE AMERICAN TRAVELER HEADING FOR JORDAN WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE TROUBLE AND EXPENSE OF OBTAINING A NEW DOCUMENT.

5. JERUSALEM RECOMMENDS THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE SUGGESTED PROCEDURE. IF APPROVED, ALL NEA POSTS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED ACCORDINGLY, AS THE PROCEDURE IS A DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PASSPORT OPERATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE 8FAM. AS THE HEAVY TOURIST SEASON IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING, THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE IS REQUESTED ASAP.
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